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The Cleveland Orchestra celebrates Christmas in July with more holiday programming at Severance Music Center



(Photos: Scott Esterly)

New film concerts and special events added to 2026–27 season

CLEVELAND— The Cleveland Orchestra is celebrating Christmas in July by unveiling an expanded lineup of film presentations and specials at Severance Music Center. These newly announced performances join The Cleveland Orchestra’s Holiday Concerts, creating a season filled with music, movies, and cherished traditions.

Make the transition from spooky season to the holiday season on November 6 with Tim Burton’s ***The Nightmare Before Christmas***, featuring the holiday classic on the big screen with Grammy-winning composer Danny Elfman’s musical score performed live by The Cleveland Orchestra.

The holiday celebrations ramp up on Wednesday, December 9 as the **Preservation Hall Jazz Band** returns to Severance Music Center for the first time since 2013. The New Orleans–based ensemble’s *Creole Christmas* blends holiday favorites with the sounds of the French Quarter.

The Orchestra’s annual **Holiday Concerts**, running December 11 through 23, are the centerpiece of the season at Severance Music Center. Led by conductor Sarah Hicks and featuring vocalist Capathia Jenkins, these festive performances have delighted generations of audiences.

Movie lovers can enjoy ***It’s a Wonderful Life in Concert*** on Wednesday, December 16 and Thursday, December 17. The Cleveland Orchestra performs Dimitri Tiomkin’s score live while Frank Capra’s timeless

film plays on the big screen, bringing George Bailey's inspiring story to life in a uniquely immersive concert experience.

Throughout the holiday season, Severance Music Center transforms with festive décor, welcoming audiences into the spirit of the season. Returning for its second year is the popular pop-up holiday cocktail bar in the newly renovated **Lounge at Severance**, featuring signature seasonal drinks, live music, and cheerful decorations.

The announcement includes two special performances later in the season. Acclaimed organist **Anna Lapwood** makes her Severance Music Center recital debut on Tuesday, February 9, with a program featuring music from *The Lord of the Rings* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*, alongside contemporary minimalist works and beloved organ repertoire.

The Cleveland Orchestra presents Disney and Pixar's ***Ratatouille* in Concert** featuring a screening of the complete film with Oscar- and Grammy-winning composer Michael Giacchino's musical score performed live on Friday, February 19 and Sunday, February 21. *Ratatouille* re-teams Giacchino with Academy Award-winning director Brad Bird as they tell the story of Remy, a rat who dreams of becoming a great chef in a heartwarming adventure set in Paris.

The Christmas in July promotion also highlights The Cleveland Orchestra's previously announced **2026–27 Recital Series**, featuring internationally acclaimed artists Lang Lang on September 12, Lisa Batiashvili, Gautier Capuçon, and Jean-Yves Thibaudet on October 19, Stephen Hough on January 26, Garrick Ohlsson on March 16, and Nobuyuki Tsujii on April 20.

Images available for [download here](#).

Ticket Information

Tickets to *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, Preservation Hall Jazz Band, *It's a Wonderful Life* in Concert, Anna Lapwood in Recital, *Ratatouille* in Concert, and all performances in the 2026–27 Recital Series go on sale to select Cleveland Orchestra donors and subscribers on Wednesday, July 15, at 10 a.m. Public sales begin Thursday, July 16, at 10 a.m. Tickets are available through the Severance Music Center Ticket Office by calling 216-231-1111 or visiting clevelandorchestra.com.

Tickets for The Cleveland Orchestra's Holiday Concerts, as well as subscriptions to the Recital Series, are already on sale through the Severance Music Center Ticket Office.

Calendar Listings

Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas*

Friday, November 6, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Jacob Joyce, *conductor*

DANNY ELFMAN *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (full film with live orchestral underscore)

Based on an original poem and characters created by Tim Burton, the film was first released in 1993 as *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. Directed by Henry Selick (*James and the Giant Peach*), the film follows the earnest-but-misguided adventures of Jack Skellington, Halloween Town's beloved Pumpkin King.

Bored with the same old scare-and-scream routine of Halloween, Jack longs to try something new. Convinced that he can spread the joy of Christmas and against the advice of Sally, a caring and clever ragdoll, Jack enlists three mischievous trick-or-treaters — Lock, Shock, and Barrel — to kidnap Santa Claus. But Jack's merry mission puts Santa in jeopardy and creates a nightmare for good little boys and girls everywhere.

Preservation Hall Jazz Band Creole Christmas

Wednesday, December 9, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.*

Preservation Hall Jazz Band

*The Cleveland Orchestra does not appear on this program.

The Cleveland Orchestra Holiday Concerts

Friday, December 11, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 12, 2026, at 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 12, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 13, 2026, at 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 13, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, December 18, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 19, 2026, at 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 19, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 20, 2026, at 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 20, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 22, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 23, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Sarah Hicks, *conductor*

Capathia Jenkins, *vocalist*

The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus

Blossom Festival Chorus

The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus Chamber Ensemble

The Cleveland Orchestra Children's Chorus

***It's a Wonderful Life* in Concert**

Wednesday, December 16, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 17, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Sarah Hicks, *conductor*

TIOMKIN *It's a Wonderful Life* (film with live orchestral underscore)

In *It's a Wonderful Life*, Jimmy Stewart portrays the down-and-out George Bailey, a lovable "failure" with so many problems that he is thinking about ending it all — and it's Christmas! Clarence, his guardian angel, shows George what his town would be like if it hadn't been for all of his good deeds. In one of the most iconic holiday films ever made, the spirit of the season rings through each of the iconic performances — including Tiomkin's poignant score. Nominated for five Academy Awards®, including

Best Picture, *It's a Wonderful Life* has been recognized by the American Film Institute as one of the 100 best American films ever made.

Anna Lapwood in Recital

Tuesday, February 9, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.*

Anna Lapwood, *organ*

*The Cleveland Orchestra does not appear on this program.

Disney and Pixar's *Ratatouille* in Concert

Friday, February 19, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 21, 2027, at 3 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Thiago Tiberio, *conductor*

MICHAEL GIACCHINO Disney and Pixar's *Ratatouille* (film with live orchestral underscore)

In the Oscar®-winning film, a rat named Remy dreams of becoming a great chef despite his family's wishes, and the obvious problem of being a rat in a decidedly rodent-phobic profession. When fate places Remy in the sewers of Paris, he finds himself ideally situated beneath a restaurant made famous by his culinary hero, Auguste Gusteau. Remy's passion for cooking soon sets into motion a hilarious and exciting rat race that turns the foodie world of Paris upside down.

The Cleveland Orchestra's 2026–27 Recital Series

Lang Lang in Recital

Saturday, September 12, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

Lang Lang, *piano*

MOZART Rondo in D major, K. 485

BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata No. 8, "Pathétique"

BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata No. 31

ALBÉNIZ Selections from *Suite española* No. 1

GRANADOS *Quejas, o la Maja y el Ruiseñor* from *Goyescas*

LISZT Consolation No. 2

LISZT Tarantella from *Venezia e Napoli*

Batiashvili, Capuçon & Thibaudet in Recital

Monday, October 19, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

Lisa Batiashvili, *violin*

Gautier Capuçon, *cello*

Jean-Yves Thibaudet, *piano*

SHOSTAKOVICH Piano Trio No. 1

DEBUSSY Piano Trio

DVOŘÁK Piano Trio No. 3

Stephen Hough in Recital

Tuesday, January 26, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.
Stephen Hough, *piano*

SCHUBERT Klavierstück No. 2, D. 946
BRAHMS Intermezzo in E-flat minor, Op. 118
SCHOENBERG Six Little Piano Pieces
STOCKHAUSEN *Klavierstück III*
BEETHOVEN Bagatelle in A major, Op. 119
BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata No. 21, "Waldstein"
R. SCHUMANN *Carnaval*
SHERMAN/HOUGH *Mary Poppins Suite*

Garrick Ohlsson in Recital

Tuesday, March 16, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.
Garrick Ohlsson, *piano*

CHOPIN Nocturne in F major, Op. 15, No. 1
CHOPIN Nocturne in B major, Op. 9, No. 3
CHOPIN Barcarolle, Op. 60
CHOPIN Fantaisie, Op. 49
CHOPIN Scherzo No. 3
CHOPIN Impromptu No. 2
CHOPIN Piano Sonata No. 3

Nobuyuki Tsujii in Recital

Tuesday, April 20, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.
Nobuyuki Tsujii, *piano*

GRIEG Selections from *Lyric Pieces*
DEBUSSY *Images*, Book 1
DEBUSSY *L'isle joyeuse*
RAVEL *Menuet sur le nom d'Haydn*
RAVEL *Pavane pour une infante défunte*
RAVEL *Jeux d'eau*
KAPUSTIN Eight Concert Etudes, Op. 40

Generous support for the 2026–27 Recital Series provided by the Art of Beauty Company, Inc.

All programs, artists, and prices are subject to change.

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